

ceases to be an employee before his or...60th birthday may elect to receive a termination benefit as provided in the section. This merely grandfathers in those people when this bill becomes law. So again, it takes the county officials, or the county employees, puts them on the same plan as the state employees and the amendment that you vote on first grandfathers in those that might be affected when this bill is passed, and I would ask for your approval of the amendments. Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Senator Haberman. (Gavel.) Senator Lamb, for discussion of the committee amendment, please. On the bill. Senator Wesely, on the committee amendment. Any other discussion on the committee amendment as presented by Senator Haberman? If not, all in favor of the committee amendment please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted on the amendment? Record, please.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Lamb, on the bill, as amended, followed by Senator Wesely.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I realize there is no fiscal impact as far as the bill is concerned. There is not a fiscal impact in there. But I don't believe that there is no fiscal impact with this bill. We have a situation here, and I am very reluctant to lower retirement ages. I think, basically, there is a cost there whether the Fiscal Analyst's office recognizes it or not and the cost...one of the costs that comes into a bill like this is losing those employees that are valuable to that organization. You get people that are up...they get up to 55 years old, they have been around long enough to know what is happening, are valued employees and then suddenly because there is an opportunity to retire, they do it, and I don't think that should be allowed to happen. This country is losing people at too young an age that are valuable to society. It is happening again and again as we see retirement ages reduced all over the country. The expenses are increasing not only directly from the pensions that those people might be eligible for, but also because we are losing valuable people from the work force at an age and at a time when they are of most value to that society. So I just cannot bring myself to vote for bills which continually decrease the age of retirement. Now, I...in my travels around my legislative district, I have had complaints from county officials, from county board people,